

URBAN ENHANCEMENT TRUST FUND

The Urban Enhancement Trust Fund (UETF) is a public endowment created by the Albuquerque City Council in 1983 to fund projects designed to enrich the cultural and aesthetic environment of Albuquerque. In 2004, the City Council amended the ordinance to provide that all funds available from the endowment should be directed to cultural projects. The ordinance also provides for an eleven-member citizens' committee that is responsible for establishing guidelines and assists in the formulation of a program of projects to be funded. The UETF Committee develops criteria for project selection for each two-year granting cycle; it rates, ranks and recommends a program of cultural projects; and it provides oversight, throughout the two-year period, for each funded project. A full copy of the UETF ordinance may be found in Appendix A, page A-40.

UETF is a two-year program with planning, application, review, and selection process accomplished simultaneously with the City's General Obligation Program / Decade Plan process. Unlike the G.O. Bond Program, UETF projects receive final approval from the City Council. For the 2006-2007 cycle, projects valued at just over \$900,000 were approved.

Policy

Proposals for projects must be submitted by non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c) (3) organizations. The organization must be dedicated to enhancing Albuquerque's cultural vitality in the area of visual art, music, theater, dance, history or literature. All projects should advance the Albuquerque Cultural Plan and have a favorable economic or cultural impact on the city. All provisions of the "anti-donation" clause of the constitution of the state of New Mexico apply.

2006 – 2007 Planning Process and Program Criteria

In March of 2004, more than 300 arts/cultural organizations were notified of the UETF opportunity, and invited to attend a public meeting in April to receive information about applying for funding. Seventy-three applications were submitted on May 20, 2004. The applications were reviewed, evaluated and rated by city staff and by the UETF Committee. Each proposed project was evaluated based on the following criteria: overall quality of the project, quality of the organization, artists and key personnel, impact on the community, relation to the Albuquerque Cultural Plan, and fiscal considerations. The UETF committee met in August to discuss each application, to tabulate the ratings and the funds requested in relation to funds available, to ensure broad diversity in terms of art forms and audiences/participants to be served, and to develop the final UETF Program for recommendation to the Mayor.

The 2006-2007 UETF Program proposed funding of \$911,268 to 42 organizations that will sponsor projects to serve approximately one million people during the two-year cycle. Included in the program are many forms of dance, music, theater, puppetry, poetry, history, video productions, educational workshops, publications, and visual art exhibitions.

On June 30, 2005, the City Council approved the FY '06 – FY '07 Two-Year Urban Enhancement Trust Fund Program.